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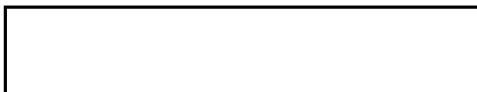
MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

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12 November 1967



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Information as of 1600
12 November 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy fighting was reported over the weekend near Dak To in the central highlands.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Heavy fighting continues for the 11th day in the Dak To area (Paras. 1-3).

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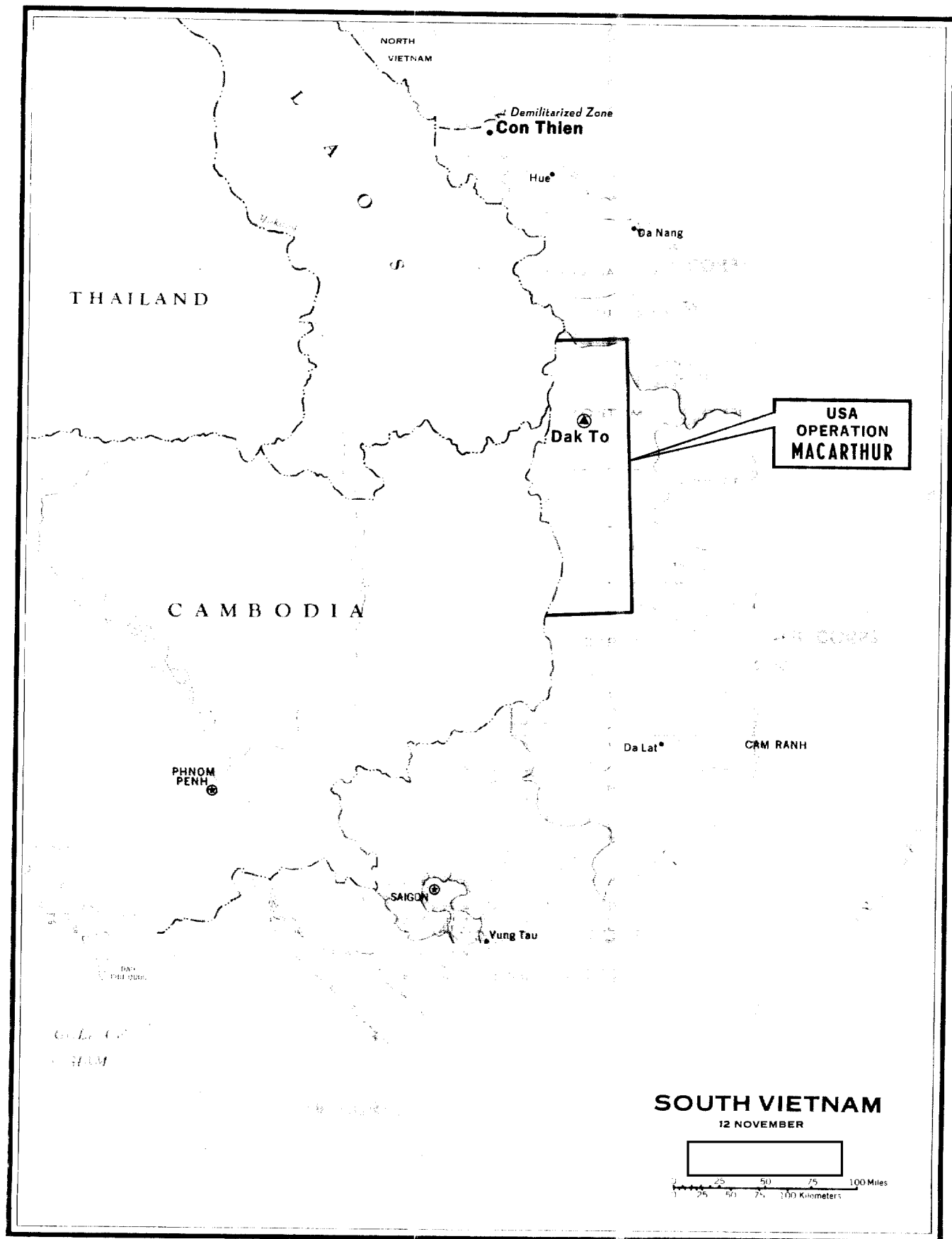
II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
The Viet Cong's release of three US prisoners in Cambodia apparently is designed to increase propaganda advantage (Paras. 1-3). President Thieu announces holiday cease-fires (Paras. 4-5).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Heavy fighting continued in the Dak To area of the central highlands over the weekend while other ground action in South Vietnam was at a low level.

2. US forces participating in Operation MACARTHUR in the central highlands along the Cambodian border reported three sharp engagements with enemy forces south of Dak To on 10 and 11 November. These encounters resulted in known enemy casualties of 142 killed. US casualties were reported as 43 killed, 258 wounded, and two missing.

3. Cumulative casualties for the actions in the vicinity of Dak To for the period 1 November - 11 November are: US--88 killed, 458 wounded and two missing; enemy--557 killed, seven detained, 101 individual and 25 crew-served weapons captured.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The Viet Cong's release of three US POWs in Cambodia this weekend was apparently designed for maximum propaganda impact.

2. The prisoners were "turned over" to Tom Hayden, a US "peace committee representative," at a ceremony in Phnom Penh on 11 November. Two of the prisoners made brief statements thanking the Viet Cong and Hayden for arranging their release, then sat silently through 40 minutes of Viet Cong oratory. The POWs were then held incommunicado until the following day, when they were put on a Czechoslovakian Airlines plane bound for Prague. It is not clear where the men will go following their arrival in Prague, but Hayden, who is accompanying them, has stressed his desire to get them home as soon as possible.

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Thieu Announces Holiday Cease-fires

4. President Thieu beat the Liberation Front to the punch this weekend by announcing that the allied forces would probably observe 24-hour cease-fire periods on Christmas and New Years, and a 48-hour period next February during the Tet lunar new year. Thieu,

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who toured the Loc Ninh battlefield on 11 November, also said that he would carry out his campaign pledge to write a letter to Ho Chi Minh proposing peace talks. Thieu was vague concerning when such a letter would be sent, however.

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